

# BOOK REVIEWS

**IT'S AN ALLERGY.** By Frank G. Crandall, Jr., M.D. Murray and Gee Inc., Hollywood, California, 1946, pp. 313. Price \$3.50.

Recent survey indicates that about 10 per cent of the total population of the United States or about 14 000 000 people, have some major allergic condition such as hay fever, asthma, hives or eczema. It is not surprising, therefore, that the layman has become allergy conscious and has sought some simple explanation of the probable cause of his ailment and how to obtain worthwhile relief. Until recent years, however, this information was available for the most part in articles published in lay periodicals and in the health columns in our newspapers. Whereas such articles are informative, they do not always have the authoritative stamp of the physician devoting much of his time to allergic diseases.

Dr. Crandall's authoritative book written for the layman and the allergic patient presents the subject in a clear and simple style. The subject matter is divided logically into separate chapters devoted to such common allergic manifestations as Asthma, Hay Fever, Food Allergy, Hives and Eczema. In addition there are chapters on the Frequency, Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergy. The language is clear and simple and should be easily understood by the layman. The fact that the author brings to his special work in Allergy a large clinical experience obtained in general practice adds great value to the advice which he gives the allergic patient as to the manner of living, eating and working so as to obtain as much relief as one may expect in an ailment in which heredity plays so important a part.

In recent years other books on allergy have been written for the layman but none has accomplished so well Dr. Crandall's aim, namely to acquaint the allergic patient with the underlying cause of his ailment and how to combat it.

It should be stressed further that the practitioner who has not followed the recent developments in our knowledge of allergic diseases may profit by reading Dr. Crandall's book.

**HEALTH EXAMINATIONS.** A Manual for the General Practitioner. Prepared for The Medical Society of the County of New York by the Special Committee on Preventive Medicine. 1946. Mead Johnson & Company. Pp. 144.

The early recognition and care of abnormal states in the individual have become an important part of the duties of the general practitioner and his diagnostic partners, the internist and the pediatrician. The stated object of this manual is to make available for convenient use of the physician the content and method of examinations of various types of patients, according to age or the reason for which they may seek examination.

Some of the suggested examinations are more suitable for the specialist than the general practitioner (such as Eye and Ear); other sections are colored by the opinions of the author (Body Build and Endocrine Imbalance). There are a few contradictions arising from differences in viewpoint of two authors (on page 38, thumb sucking is stated to have no deleterious effect on dentition; on page 138, it is said to be productive often of malocclusion of the teeth or facial deformities).

On the whole, it is well done as a quick review and reference book for the practitioner who may wish to become conversant with the reasons for and the techniques of the examination of the presumed healthy person. The chapters on emotional factors are especially recommended.

**RENAL HYPERTENSION.** By Eduardo Braun-Menéndez, Juan Carlos Fasciolo, Luis F. Leloir, Juan M. Muñoz, and Alberto C. Taquini, Institute of Physiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences and Institute of Cardiology, V. F. Greg Foundation, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Translated by Levis Dexter, M.D., Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. Pp. 451. 93 illustrations. First edition. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1946. Price \$6.75.

The velocity of new work in the field of renal hypertension has slowed considerably in the past few years in comparison to the enormous productivity following Goldblatt's classic paper in 1934. The lull in the investigative developments has been wisely used by the authors to present the most complete, critical, and authoritative review of the subject of renal hypertension available in the literature. The translation by Dr. Dexter, with the addition of work done since the original Spanish edition was written, is clear and the style is easily followed.

Several features of the book are outstanding. The most important is the really critical evaluation of the vast literature that is reviewed and the authors are particularly well qualified by their own important contributions and experience to do this. Many books faithfully catalogue and compile papers relating to the subject, but few analyze the work done with a critical eye toward accurateness of method, meticulousness of detail, validity of the conclusions as based on the facts, and correlation with previous and subsequent work insofar as consistencies are concerned. The authors are direct and blunt at times in pointing out uncritical work or commenting on conclusions not adequately demonstrated by the data presented. It is felt that this is most valuable.

Another feature of the book that is outstanding is the incorporation of 93 figures that illustrate significant work described in the text. These figures relate not only to the original work of the authors, but to significant work elsewhere, and allow the reader to evaluate for himself the data presented. The extensive bibliography of 1,238 references will be invaluable in reviewing specific phases of renal hypertension and it reflects the tremendous output of work done in the field, since most of the papers were published in the last ten years.

The appendix summarizing the author's methods of preparation and assay of renin, hypertensinogen, hypertension, and hypertensinase will prove of value to those working in the field.

The sections of the book dealing with essential human hypertension are not as complete as those dealing with experimental hypertension. One might also object to the relatively abrupt manner in which the authors discuss the important work of Castleman and Smithwick on renal biopsies performed on hypertensive patients during sympathectomy. The authors indicate that the biopsy findings do not necessarily reflect the arteriolar changes in the kidney as a whole. It is of interest that the authors believe essential hypertension in man is primarily renal in origin.

This book can be highly recommended to all physicians.

**EARLY AMBULATION AND RELATED PROCEDURES IN SURGICAL MANAGEMENT.** By Daniel J. Leithauser, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chief of Surgery, St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Detroit, 1946. 36 Figures. 6 Tables. 260 References. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois. Price \$4.50.

This book presents the case for early ambulation in a very convincing manner. The history of ambulation is treated in outline form, impressing readers with the number of early writers who recommended it. General